SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Before he replies, kindly allow me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh dispute to come up here.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I will take just one minute. I will just add to what he has said so that he can answer both the questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is Question Hour. You are a senior Member.

SHRI M. S GURUPADASWAMY : All right, you call me later.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : I was just listening to Mr. Upendra's argument. It was not a question, it was just an argument on the question.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : I am enlightening you.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : After Madam Indira Gandhi's attempt to solve this issue, the whole problem came from transfer of 15 TMC of Krishna water for Madras city. That was the intention of the agreement first. So Maharashtra and Karnataka are questioning the provision of en route irrigation in the Telugu Ganga Project.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: That was there from the beginning. It was not added later.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : So now if you are not diverting the excess waters, as Andhra Pradesh is claiming, I understand from the records that Maharashtra and other States may not at all be worried about it; they will be agreeable. This is precisely the reason why we are particular that all the Chief Ministers must sit together and let us have a solution to this.

The second suggestion of Mr. Upendra is that individually you can see them also. I am not against individually meeting the Chief Ministers. I am prepared to meet the Chief Ministers individually and then if there is anything, collectvely also. But don't block it completely and say that you do not want to meet the Chief Ministers. This is the only point I am worried about.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : May I just ask a question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 242.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : I want you to hear my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thirty-six minutes have gone by. I have called the next question.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : I am just seeking your permission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody knows the whole thing. Question No. 242.

Inadequate custom clearance facilities at Nhava-Sheva Port

242. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL†

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to inadequate custom clearance facilities at the Nhava-Sheva Port, the exporters and importers have to run from pillar to post to get their consignments cleared;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a full fledged customs house at Nhava-Sheva;

(c) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what other steps are proposed to ensure clearance of the consignments without any loss of time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Harvendra Singh Hanspal.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) Adequate customs facilities have been made available at Nhava-Sheva Port since re-named as Jawahar Lal Nehru Port. The exporters and importers are not facing difficulty for want of customs facilities.

(b) A full fledged Customs House is already functioning at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि फुल फ्लेड्ड कस्टम हाउस वहां पर आलरेडी फंक्शन कर रहा है । पेपर की रिपोर्ट है कि एट द मोमेंट दो बैरेक्स के अन्दर वहां पर कस्टम हाउस के कुछ लोग काम कर रहे हैं । एक टेम्पोरेरी कस्टम हाउस कह लीजिए बनाया जा रहा है जो दिसम्बर में तैयार होगा और रेगूलर कस्टम हाउस अगर बनना शुरू हुआ तो उसमें 2-4 साल लग जायेंगे...

श्री सभापति : इमारत के बारे में सवाल है आपका ?

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मैं अगली बात कह रहा हूं ।

इन्होंने कहा कि वहां फुल फ्लेड्ड कस्टम हाउस काम कर रहा है तो मेरा यह कहना है कि केवल दो बैरक्स में इस वक्त काम हो रहा है । टेम्पोरेरी जो कस्टम हाउस बनना है वह दिसम्बर में बनेगा और जो रेगूलर बनना है उसको 2-4 साल आराम से लगेंगे । टेम्पोरेरी जो वहां पर दो बैरक्स में काम हो रहा है, प्रेस की रिपोर्ट यह है कि एक इम्पोर्टर या एक्सपोर्टर के कन्साइनमेंट को क्लीयर कराने के लिए नावा शेवा या जवाहर लाल नेहरू पोर्ट और बम्बई के चार चक्कर यूजर को लगाने पड़ते हैं तब जाकर वह क्लीयर होता है । जो कस्टम हाउस का इक्वामिनेशन वहां पर होता है उसकी रिपोर्ट बम्बई में जाकर कलेक्ट करनी पड़ती है । क्या यह सही है, यह मेरा पहला सवाल है । मंत्री जी कृपा करके यह बतायें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it a fact ?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : It is not a fact. The Customs House is functioning there. What the hon. Member has said is about infrastructural facilities. We are working there. With 78 personnel posted there, including a Collector, there is no reason to give that report as stated in the newspaper, that people have to go to Bombay.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is not true.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : It is not correct. What has happened, which the paper should have clarified, is that two facilities are required. One is for the purpose of clearance of chemicals and another is for the purpose of clearance of drugs. This has started since May. For clearance of chemicals the testing facility is in Bombay Custom House. For clearance of drugs, the No Objection Certificate is given by the Asstt. Drug Controller, who sits in Bombay Custom House. But there is a provision...

MR. CHAIRMAN : So what he says is correct.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : It is not correct. Why I am saying so...

MR. CHAIRMAN : For clearance of chemicals and drugs, he has to go to Bombay.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : May I complete, Sir ? The total number of bills so far cleared is 1500. Out of that, 100 samples of chemicals had to be sent to Bombay for clearnce. But it did not create any difficulty it is only six per cent of the total movement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But six per cent suffer. This is no argument.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : May I make another point here ? So far as chemicals are concerned, there is no suffering because there is a provision that chemicals can be released provisionally, subject to testing. Therefore, there is no suffering.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you a provision there ?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Yes, there is a provision and we are applying that provision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But even if two per cent or one per cent are suffering, then your earlier statement does not fit in.

... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, may I complete my reply ? Although it has to be chemically tested, there is a provision all over—not only in Bombay—so far as chemicals are concerned, when a provisional certificate is given and goods are released. So, the movement is not affected. So far as drugs are concerned, out of 1,500 bills of entry dealt with, only 14 cases were held up. We are making arrangements. We have already written to the Health Department to give us a Drug Controller so that we can post him there.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, are you satisfied with the reply? Does the honourable Minister accept that perfect arrangements are still to be made ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That he is accepting. That is why he is going to make arrangements.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : When ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That he has already said.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : चेयरमैन महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी के जवाब से एब्सोल्यूटली डिससैटिसफाइड हूं । आप भी इस बात से सहमत हैं ।

श्री सभापति : अब उन्होंने कह दिया है कि दो चीजों में होता है । इसके लिए वे पूरा प्रबंध कर रहे हैं और जल्दी करेंगे ।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : कर रहे हैं । वह क्वेश्चन मैं दोबारा करूंगा । मेरा यह निजी तजुर्बा है कि सारे डाक्यूमेंट्स अगर कम्प्लीट हैं तो भी ज्यादा हैरासमेंट पोर्टर के ऊपर होता है और ये कहते हैं कि बम्बई जाकर न भी हो तो एक्जेम्शन है और विदआउट दैट सर्टिफिकेशन वहां से ड्रग्स या केमिकल्स क्लीयर हो सकते हैं । ऐसा बिल्कुल नहीं होता है । बहुत ज्यादा हैरासमेंट होता है और इसकी वजह से करप्शन होता है ।

श्री सभापति : वे उसको खत्म करने वाले हैं ।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : वह तो पता नहीं कब होगा । मेरे पहले सवाल के संबंध में मेरा सवाल यह है कि जो मैंने कहा था कि वहां पर दो बैरक्स में काम हो रहा है और टेम्पोरेरी बनने वाला है तो इसका उन्होंने कोई जवाब नहीं दिया कि यह सही है या नहीं । जवाहर लाल नेहरू पोर्ट बनने में कई साल लगेंगे । क्या फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री वाले एन्टीसिपेट नहीं कर सके कि वहां कस्टम हाउस की जरूरत है, क्यों नहीं यह वहां साथ साथ बना, क्यों उसे डिले किया गया, यह मेरा स्पेसिफिक क्वेश्चन है ।

SHRI AJIT PANJA : It is not that it is functioning in barracks. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust authorities have given us space, but envisaging the work-load that would come up, I can here give a small figure to you for your consideration. It is not that people are suffering, because revenue collection in this port was, in May 1989, when it was opened, Rs. 1.29 crores. In June it was Rs. 4.95 crores and in July, up to 28th, it was Rs. 7.46 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is going up.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: What relevance has it?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : The relevance is this. We have been provided with space but the project report given by experts is that this port is going to be one of the best ports and, therefore, some more construction is necessary and for the purpose of facilities, more staff is necessary. Therefore, envisaging the future this port is going to have we are increasing the services so that we may not land in trouble in future.

... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are taking care of it ?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Yes, Sir, it is all *going on...(Interruptions)*...In the first part of his question it is stated that people are suffering. Not a single instance has been brought to the notice of the Government yet. If the honourable Member has some instance of anybody suffering, he can bring it to my notice.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : : मेरा सवाल यह है कि इन्होंने ...

श्री सभापति : आप लिख दीजिएगा।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : मेरे पास कोई स्पेसिफिक इस्टांस नहीं है। मेरा कहना यह है कि फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री ने बिल्कुल यह एन्टीसिपेट नहीं किया, जबकि नावा शेवा या जवाहर नेहरु पोर्ट के बारे में यह कहा गया कि यह सबसे बड़ा पोर्ट बन रहा है। लेकिन यह एन्टीसिपेट नहीं कर सकी कि वहां कितना बिजिनेस होगा, कितना माल इम्पोर्ट और एक्सपोर्ट होगा। *That means there is bad management somewhere.* यह मेरा कहना है। अभी टेम्पोरेरी बना रहे हैं और कह रहे हैं कि लोगों को दिक्कत नहीं है वहां पर।

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, I am required to answer this question? We did anticipate. We engaged one consultant, a famous consultant M/s. Howe India Private Ltd. of the World Bank. This has already been done, and the Customs Department...

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : When has it been done? You tell this to us.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : It has been done before the Port was planned and anticipation projected.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : पोर्ट बन गया इनका, कस्टम-हाऊस नहीं बना।

SHRI AJIT PANJA : It canot be certainly stated what would be the anticipation. But the Customs Department has been advised to go by the projection of the traffic of the order of 5 million tonnes including 2.5 million tonnes of handling of the imported bulk cargo by 1992-93. Therefore, we are taking these steps.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Sir, in view of the somewhat elaborate reply by the hon. Minister may I ask a question whether he would redraft the written answer because he says there is full-fledged facility? Here he comes out with a statement that for the purpose there are only 78 persons and that two vital commodities, chemicals and drugs are not being cleared there. Now, there are some more details. I do not know. It would take much time. But there is nothing wrong if the precedent also would take place. The reply also one should examine. I had asked the question whether there is full-fledged facility at the Nhava-Sheva Port. He says:

> "....since renaming as Jawahar Lal Nehru Port." When was it renamed? After a few months. So, in the beginning it was not there That he should have said.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you asking that? The question is not about renaming.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Renaming is O.K. Personally I have nothing to say. My main point is here. In the oral reply and the written reply there is a discrepancy. It clearly shows...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is you supplementary?

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: My supplementary is that he should redraft the written reply. Would he do it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Written replies are not redrafted, you know it.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : : क्या अध्यक्ष महोदय ?

श्री सभापति : री-ड्राफ्ट होकर यहां आएगा फिर ? क्या सवाल करते हैं ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आएगा नहीं, तो मंत्री महोदय क्यों नहीं मान लेते

कि अभी सुविधाएं पर्याप्त नहीं हैं, क्यों इस बात पर अड़ हुए हैं कि सुविधाएं पर्याप्त हैं? . . . (व्यवधान) . . . अब जबकि लोगों को वहीं से वापस जाना पड़ता है। यह कैसी सुविधा है?

श्री सभापति: वह कह रहे हैं कि वह एडहोक कर देते हैं तब तक।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: यह एडहोक रेप्लई है, आपको स्वीकार नहीं करना चाहिए।

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in view of the adequate customs clearance facilities, for hastening of the processes it is necessary to have a well-equipped laboratory at the Port. But I have heard from the hon. Minister that several constructions are necessary in order to establish a laboratory there. But so long as a permanent laboratory is not established, is it possible to have a portable laboratory which might serve the purpose? A portable laboratory will not cost much, but at the same time it provides facilities for quick and adequate customs clearance facilities for the testing of drugs and chemicals. Will it be possible to have a portable laboratory there?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: This valuable suggestion of the hon. Member is noted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And note it because she has been a Professor of Chemistry, Calcutta University, I think.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Mr. Chairman Sir, the Minister in his reply has stated two things.

श्री सभापति: आप छोटा कर दीजिए।

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, I have not even started, and you have started talking.

I am saying, he has stated two things. In the first instance he said that they are in touch with the Health Department. Secondly, he alseo stated that a private limited company of the World Bank has also been commissioned much earlier. I would like to know from the Minister whether this private limited company and the World Bank who are consultants, had anticipated the need for the type of chemical examination which is required and with whom now they are in touch in the Health Department. That was part (a) of my question.

Part (b) of my question is when did they come in touch with the Health Department? And how is that until that time the Customs authorities did not think it proper to think in terms of chemical examination as required by the Health Department?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: The report of this expert is a projection of traffic. They did not give the details of whether chemical examination. . .

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I asked about the other things and he is talking about traffic. Was the question about traffic? The question was not about traffic. It was about the customs clearance of the articles which required the chemical examination. Now, he is talking about traffic. This is how the House is misled.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I respectfully deny that the House is being misled. The hon. Member named this consultant. So, I have to state naming the consultant. It is not his purpose to give details of chemical analysis of the laboratory. What he gave is projected traffic to be handled. Those are his jobs. So far as customs are concerned, we make our requirements known to the Port Trust and they provide certain facilities. After having the facility we have this report and the projection is studied. So, we have asked for extra space so that there may not be any difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you expedite it?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: That is what we are doing.